



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 2, 1996

David P. Beatty
Environmental/Occupational Health Coordinator
Barrick Resources (USA) Incorporated
P. O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074

Re: Approval of Phoenix Pit, Barrick Mercur Resources(USA) Inc., Barrick Mercur Gold Mine,
M/045/017, Tooele County, Utah

Dear Mr. Beatty:

The Division has completed its review of your recent permit amendment application received March 1, 1996. The application describes Barrick Resources (USA) Inc.'s plans for the new Phoenix Pit. The Phoenix Pit development proposal is considered an improvement over the original, conceptually approved, "Rover Hill Pits" Project Area plan. This plan is superior, both from a disturbance standpoint and a reclamation standpoint. The addition of the Phoenix Pit is considered a minor change to the overall approved permit (NOI), based on the Division's Criteria for defining revisions and amendments as follows:

1. The disturbed acreage proposed for this amendment (20.4 acres) is slightly less than the acreage approved (21 acres) under the original NOI. The acreage change is less than a 50 acre increase which is one requirement under an amendment criteria determination.
2. The Surety will not increase because a former dump leach will not be constructed as originally contemplated. The operator will reclaim more road and waste dump area, but the savings from not having to reclaim the dump leach will greatly offset the cost of reclaiming the waste dumps and roads.
3. The amount of surface disturbance is approximately the same as what was contemplated in the original approved NOI. The location of the proposed disturbance is essentially the same as originally contemplated. The environmental impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, air or other media are also similar to what was contemplated in the original NOI. These changes are considered insignificant and further support an amendment determination.
4. For the same reasons as identified in item 3 above, the impacts of the proposed mining operation are not considered significant enough to warrant the need for public comment. Such negligible changes in impacts qualify this proposal as an amendment.



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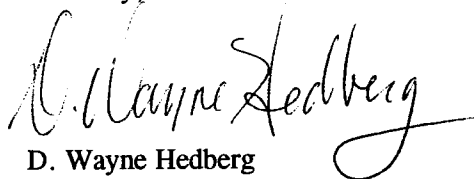
Because the proposed mining activities meet the basic requirements as described in the Division's *Criteria for Defining Amendments and Revisions*, this proposal qualifies as an amendment.

As stated in your letter, the original plan to use a dump leach associated with Rover Hill pits has been changed by eliminating the Rover Hill Dump Leach and including the mining and backfilling of the Rover Pit and the mining of the Phoenix Pit. The waste rock from the Rover Pit will be hauled and dumped over the Lady May highwall. The waste rock from the Phoenix Pit will be backfilled into the Rover Pit, leaving the Phoenix Pit not backfilled. The Phoenix Pit will consist of eight 20-foot benches for a total highwall height of approximately 160 feet. No water will be impounded in the pit. All cultural and natural resources have been examined and are described in the originally approved NOI.

This plan also addresses using approved reclamation procedures as described in the originally approved plan. The current mining and reclamation plan indicates that the Rover waste dump, Rover Haul road, and backfilled Rover Pit will be reclaimed. This leaves only 3.37 acres of the Phoenix Pit left unreclaimed and not backfilled.

The Division hereby grants its formal approval of this mine plan permit amendment. The reclamation bond will not need to be revised to accommodate this minor permit change. We look forward to the receipt of Barrick's updated and revised version of the original NOI which is proposed to be submitted in June, 1996.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb
cc: Cheryl Martinez, BLM-SLC
Dennis Frederick, DWQ
Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Minerals staff (route)
M045017.let